



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Phone: (651) 602-7900
Fax: (651) 602-7914

Transmitted via Email

February 14, 1008

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 190-8-12

SUBJECT: NOXIOUS WEED SEED FREE MULCH

Purpose. To provide clarification about the use of mulch with conservation practices.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

Recently, all NRCS field offices received a memo from the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) with information about their certification program for noxious weed free mulch. NRCS practice standard 484, Mulching requires that "mulch material shall be free of disease, noxious weed seeds and other pests and pathogens." However, the 484 practice standard does not require the use of "certified" mulch. Likewise, USDA conservation programs do not require the use of "certified" mulch.

Landowners who are applying mulch through a conservation project involving NRCS technical assistance are responsible to obtain and install materials which meet the minimum NRCS practice specifications. Mulch "certified" by MCIA should be one of many sources where landowners could obtain mulch materials which meet or exceed the 484 practice specifications.

MCIA has posted a list of available certified mulch at:
http://www.mncia.org/pub_mulchavail2007Fall.pdf

NRCS continues to work with conservation partners who support efforts that reduce the potential for spreading noxious weeds.

Questions about this bulletin may be directed to Paul Flynn, SRC, at (651) 602-7870.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC (FO)
DC
ARC
ECS
John Brach, State Engineer, St. Paul, MN

